

From: J. Scott Edwards
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 12:41am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

I wanted to submit my comments on the proposed Microsoft settlement. I am very much opposed to the settlement. I don't feel that it goes far enough to restore competition in the computer industry. I am much more impressed by the 9 dissenting states proposal, and I beg you to reject the current settlement and back the remaining states.

First of all I feel that the settlement was prompted by the Bush administration and therefore it was very much politically motivated. In my mind there is no way that this settlement would ever have happened under the Clinton administration. I also read that Microsoft donated far more money to the Republican party, and there is no doubt in my mind that they wanted to get Mr. Bush elected. I feel that the settlement should be rejected on this basis alone.

Second of all, Microsoft's monopoly has not been a benifit to the public. Since the trial began, a promising competitor to Microsoft (Be Inc. makers of the excellent BeOS) has gone out of business. This was no doubt due to Microsoft controlling the boot loader. While the settlement addresses the boot loader issue, I don't feel that it goes far enough to prevent future abuse. If I had my way I would force Microsoft to make all of their systems dual bootable by default. Linux is free, they should have to include it with Windows to give the public an option. Or better yet: make Microsoft pay to resurrect BeOS and include it on some computers systems.

Third, I have just discovered in the last few days that Microsoft has extended their monopoly in yet another way, right under your noses. There are now audio CD's on the market which will only play on computers with the Windows Operating Systems (for example the CD More Fast and Furious). This is an OUTRAGE!! There is no way that they should be allowed to sell CD's that are only playable on machines with Windows.

Another recent example is Microsoft suing Lindows, saying people will confuse Lindows OS with Windows XP. This is rediculous, it is obviously another attempt my Microsoft to quash a competitor.

I could go on, but I will end it here with a request to PLEASE reject the settlement. Thanks for your time.

James Scott Edwards
Salt Lake City, UT

Please note that I am not affiliated in any way with any of Microsoft's competitors. I am a software engineer and I have worked on and used many different computers systems in the last 25+ years. I have seen many abuses by Microsoft and I hope that you can stop them and restore competition in this industry.

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